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THE ל'פמ"ז SHEKEL

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Counterfeit Gold Herzl

Die Varieties Reported

A New Column: *Gould-en Notebook*

Club News and Other Stories

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THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. THE SHEKEL will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On a hillside in Jerusalem

As you are reading this, your AINA representatives are in Israel on this *Seventh Israel Study Tour*, perhaps even on the very hillside where the AINA Grove is being established

within the environs of the *Kennedy Memorial* area. Those of you who have been to Israel probably can visualize the site. To those of you who will follow in our footsteps on the *Eighth, Ninth and Tenth and Twentieth and Fiftieth AINA Study Tours*, we will have set the first seedlings; you of the Future will enjoy the harvest of trees, of green, of shade from the Mediterranean sun.

As we are there, we are thinking of you and the riches of 1975 before us. Think, for example, of the riches of the *Third Annual Greater New*

(Continued on Page 32)

GEORGE GILBERT, *Editor*

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ANNOUNCING THE THIRD ANNUAL GREATER NEW YORK COIN CONVENTION

Sponsored by AINA
May 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1974

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Edward Janis, *Convention Chairman*

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Stickle, Alan Weinberg

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AINA Tour Reunion

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Co-Chairmen—Irwin Stoff, Roy Miller

AINA Workshop Chairman—Edward Janis

N.Y. Young Numismatists Day Program—
Florence Schook

Registration Chairman—Irving Golub,
Michael Granis

AINA Day Luncheon Chairman—
Moe Weinschel

Program

Thursday, May 1

9:00 AM Dealers and Exhibitors set up
11:00 AM Registration opens
12:00 PM Bourse and Exhibits open to
public
7:00 PM Paramount Auction Sale—
Session No. 1
8:00 PM Ancient and Holy Land
Workshop
9:00 PM Bourse and Exhibits close

Friday, May 2

9:30 AM Open for Dealers and
Exhibitors
9:30 AM Registration opens
10:00 AM Open to Public
6:00 PM Society for Medieval
Numismatics
7:00 PM Paramount Auction Sale—
Session No. 2
8:00 PM Educational Forum—
Moderator, Edward Janis
9:00 PM Bourse and Exhibits close

Saturday, May 3

9:00 AM AINA Board Meeting
9:30 AM Open for Dealers and
Exhibitors
9:30 AM Registration opens
10:00 AM Open to Public
10:00 AM Judges Meeting
10:30 AM Young Numismatists convene
for day
1:00 PM Paramount Auction Sale—
Session No. 3
1:00 PM Inaugural Session: TAMS
of NY
2:00 PM GENA Board Meeting
4:00 PM AINA Reunion
6:00 PM Bourse and Exhibits close
7:00 PM Cocktail Hour
8:00 PM Banquet

Sunday, May 4

10:00 AM Open for Dealers and
Exhibitors
10:00 AM Registration opens
10:00 AM Open to Public
10:30 AM AINA Club Workshop
12:30 PM AINA Luncheon
2:00 PM AINA Educational Forum
4:00 PM Bourse and Exhibits close
5:00 PM Convention closes.

BACKGROUND TO THE BAR-MITZVAH MEDAL

by Albert J. Schmeidler

In 1961, on the occasion of the Thirteenth Anniversary of the *State of Israel*, the Bar-Mitzvah Year of the State, a series of State Medals known as the *Bar-Mitzvah Medals*, was issued by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation in bronze, silver and gold. These medals were struck in various sizes:

Bronze: 59 mm.* Diameter

Silver: 59 mm., 35mm, 19mm **

Gold: 27 mm., 22mm, 19mm

* The reverse of the 59mm bronze medal exists in two varieties:

Large tribes (the same as all other 1961 medals); and small tribes (see photograph below). The large tribes on the 59mm bronze metal is the rarer variety.

** The 19mm silver medal exists in three varieties:

(a) without mintmark on obverse.

(b) with mintmark letter 'kaf' on obverse, at base of lectern.

(c) mounted on a keychain.

Reverse with small tribes on left Obverse center.

Reverse with large tribe on right.

Since the original issues of these medals were sold out due to their popularity and suitability as Bar-Mitzvah gifts, the I. G. C. M. C. re-issued the medal with large tribes in 1971 in 45mm bronze and silver with unlimited mintage.

Description of the Medal

Obverse: Shows a youth reading from the Torah (Scroll of the Law) on the occasion of his Bar-Mitzvah, wearing a yarmulka (skullcap), tallit (prayer shawl) and tfillin (phylacteries). On the edge of the tallit appears the year 1961 in Hebrew and in English; in the center is the Hebrew inscription, 'BEN SHA-LOSH ESRAY LAMITZVOT' (Ethics of the Fathers 5:24); around the rim is the English translation, 'At 13 for the Fulfillment of the Mitzvoh P'a, 5, 24.'



L.: Reverse with small tribes; obverse—center; reverse with large tribes (r.).



Reverse: Shows the Shield of the State in the center, surrounded by emblems of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Around the top half of the rim is the Hebrew inscription, 'YUD GIMEL SHANNAH LEMEDINAT YISRAEL' with the English translation on the bottom half of the rim 'Bar Mitzvah of the State of Israel'.

I think we may take it for granted that almost everyone knows what a Bar-Mitzvah is and, at one time or another, has surely attended a Bar-Mitzvah ceremony as a participant or guest. The fact is that the Medal being discussed in this article is a most appropriate gift. There exist beautiful velvet-lined, olive-wood boxes in which the Medal may be housed, thus creating a lovely presentation piece.

The 12-Tribes Emblem

On the other hand, few people know the meaning or origin of the Emblems of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, and to find the origins of these interesting and lovely Emblems one must literally begin at the beginning, BERESHITH

(Genesis), the first book of the *Torah*. (In order to simplify the identification of the Emblems, imagine the reverse of the Medal as the face of a clock with each Emblem representing a number from one to twelve clock-wise.)

In the *Book of Genesis, Chapter 49*, Jacob (Israel) blessed his twelve sons, before his death. From this blessing which was prophetic in nature, as to what was to befall his sons (Future Tribes), the Emblems of Tribes evolved. *Genesis 49 V. 1-2* "And Jacob called unto his sons and said: 'Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the end of days. Assemble yourselves and hear, ye sons of Jacob and hearken unto Israel your Father.'

The Tribe of Simeon

At one o'clock is the Tower (wall), the Emblem of the *Tribe of Simeon*. *Genesis 49 V. 6* 'For in their anger they slew men, and in their self-will they houghed oxen . . .' Authorities interpret to 'hough' as to sever certain sinews and so render animal helpless. Since mutilation of animals is not mentioned in recounting Simeon destructiveness, many versions therefore interpret 'They digged down a wall'

referring to the destruction of Shechem; known today as Nablus. The Hebrew words for 'ox' and 'wall' differ only in the placement of one dot (ox — pronounced shore) and dot, moved (wall — pronounced sure). Therefore, the Emblem of the Tribe of Simeon is a wall or tower representing their strength and destructiveness. Simeon was Jacob's second son.

The Tribe of Levi

At *two o'clock* is the *Breastplate*, the Emblem of the *Tribe of Levi*.

Genesis 49 V. 7 'Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce and their wrath, for it is cruel. I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.' As a result, later on the Levites were given no single territory after the conquest of Canaan under Joshua. Levi's descendants through his son Kohath were Moses and Aaron who became the founders of the priestly line. His descendants through his sons Gershon and Merari became the temple servants and were called Levites. Thus the Emblem of the Tribe of Levi was the Breastplate representing the one worn by the high priests in the temple. Note that the Breastplate is divided into twelve sections, each one representing one of the twelve tribes. Levi was Jacob's third son.

The Tribe of Judah

At *three o'clock* is the *lion*, the Emblem of the *Tribe of Judah*.

Genesis 49, V. 9 'Judah is a *lion's whelp*; from the prey, my son, thou art gone up. He stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as a lioness: who shall rouse him up? The Emblem of the Tribe of Judah was a lion. The metaphor suggests the vigor and nobility of Judah and his offspring; and the habitual swiftness and force of their military movement. 'Thou art gone up' — to the security of the Judah hills, after the victorious conflict in the plains below. Judah was Jacob's fourth son.

The Tribe of Zebulun

At *four o'clock* is the *ship*, the Emblem of the *Tribe of Zebulun*.

Genesis 49, V. 13 'Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the sea. He shall be a *shore for ships*, and his flank shall be upon *Zidon*.' The favorable geographic position of Zebulun's territory is described. *A shore for ships*, to which they may come for safety. *Zidon*, the territory of Zebulun stretched from the Sea of Galilee to Mount Carmel (on the Mediterranean) close under Tyre and Zidon. Zebulun was Jacob's tenth son.

The Tribe of Issachar

At *five o'clock* is an *ass*, the Emblem of the *Tribe of Issachar*.

Genesis 49, V. 14-15 'Issachar is a *large-boned ass* couching down between the sheepfolds. For he saw a *resting place* that was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant under taskwork.' *Large boned-ass*, indicating great physical power. *A resting place*, as opposed to the wandering life of nomads. Therefore, the Emblem of the Tribe of Issachar was an ass, symbolic of power and servitude to the land. Issachar was Jacob's ninth son.

The Tribe of Dan

At *six o'clock* are the *scales of justice*, the Emblem of the *Tribe of Dan*.

Genesis 49, V. 16 'Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel.' This is self-explanatory as to the Emblem of the Scales of Justice for the Tribe of Dan. Sometimes the Emblem of the Tribe of Dan is depicted as a snake.

Genesis 49, V. 17 'Dan shall be a *serpent* in the way, a *horned snake* in the path, that biteth the horse's heels, so that the rider falleth backward.' *A horned snake*, is small, but highly venomous; it coils itself in the sand and, it disturbed, darts out upon any passing animal. Dan will prove dangerous to his foes by ambushes and guerrilla warfare. Dan was Jacob's fifth son.

The Tribe of Gad

At seven o'clock is a *tent*, the Emblem of the *Tribe of Gad*.

Genesis 49, V. 19. 'Gad, a *troop* shall *troop* upon him; but he shall *troop* upon their heel.' Gad — from Hebrew root *Gedad*, meaning army or troop. A *troop* shall *troop* there is here a play upon the name. Perhaps the translation should be, 'A raiding band raids him, but he will band himself against their heels.' Later on in the Biblical narrative, the Tribe of Gad succeeded in repelling the Ammonites, Maolites and Aremaens, who were constantly raiding his borders. Thus the Emblem of the Tribe of Gad was a tent representing a military camp. Gad was Jacob's seventh son.

The Tribe of Naphtali

At eight o'clock is the *hind* (deer), the Emblem of the *Tribe of Naphtali*.

Genesis 49, V. 21 'Naphtali is a *hind* let loose; he giveth goodly words. *Hind* let loose, an image of swiftness and grace in movement. *He giveth goodly words*. This refers to the Tribe's reputation for eloquence and the great victory of Barak, a Naphtalite, which was followed by the glorious Song of Deborah. The Emblem of the Tribe of Naphtali is a deer taken straight from the above quote. Naphtali was Jacob's sixth son.

The Tribe of Benjamin

At nine o'clock is the *wolf*, the Emblem of the *Tribe of Benjamin*.

Genesis 49, V. 27 'Benjamin is a *wolf* that *raveneth*; in the morning he devoureth the prey, and at the even he divideth the spoil.' A *wolf* that *raveneth* — refers to the warlike character of the Tribe. Therefore, Benjamin's Emblem was a wolf as described in his father's blessing. Benjamin was Jacob's twelfth and youngest son.

The Tribe of Asher

At ten o'clock is the *olive tree*, the Emblem of the *Tribe of Asher*.

Genesis 49, V. 20 'As for *Asher* his bread shall be fat and he shall yield *royal dainties*.' *Asher* — the name means 'happy' or 'fortunate' — and

this meaning is reflected in Jacob's blessing upon him. The land of Asher was prosperous. *Royal Dainties* — delicacies fit for the table of kings. The allusion is probably to an export trade carried on by the men of Asher. The Tribe Emblem of Asher was an olive tree representing wealth in agricultural food products. Asher was the eighth son of Jacob.

The Tribe of Joseph

At eleven o'clock is a *sheaf* of *wheat*, representing the Emblem of the *Tribe of Joseph*.

Genesis 49, V. 25 'Even by the Good of thy father, who shall help thee, and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee, with *blessings of heaven* above. *Blessings from the deep* that coucheth beneath, *blessings of the breast* and of the womb . . . ' Three blessings are mentioned. *Blessings of heaven*, rain and dew, sunshine and wind. *The deep*, the subterranean reservoir of waters beneath from which spring fertility to the soil. *The breasts*, the fruitfulness of the family. The Emblem of the Tribe of Joseph was the sheaf of wheat representing fruitfulness of the universe as described in Jacob's blessing upon him. The Emblem also represents Joseph's control of the food resources in Egypt during his years as Minister to Pharaoh, after interpreting Pharaoh's dreams of seven years of feast to be followed by seven years of famine. Joseph was Jacob's eleventh son.

The Tribe of Reuben

At twelve o'clock is a *sun*, the Emblem of the *Tribe of Reuben*.

Genesis 49, V. 3-4 'Reuben, thou art my first-born, my might, and the first fruits of my strength; *the excellency of dignity*, and *the excellency of power*.' The sun symbolized the *excellency of dignity and power* of the first-born.

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THE FIRST MOSHAV TOKENS: NAHALAL

by Dr. Samuel Halperin

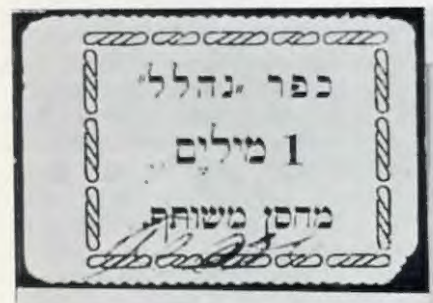
1921 EMERGENCY NOTES



1 Egyptian Piastres



2 Egyptian Piastres.



1 Millieme

The numismatic history of pre-State Israel tokens may never be completed, much of the ephemeral bits of paper and metal having suffered the ravages of time and neglect. Yet, progress in this fascinating area is undeniable as token collectors in increasing numbers attempt to piece together the colorful life of the Palestine Jewish community, or *Yishuv*.

This contribution highlights three hitherto uncharted tokens of the first *moshav*, or freeholders' agricultural village. But, first, some historical background seems in order.

The First Settlements

The First Aliyah, or wave of immigration, founded a number of agricultural villages, the first new Jewish settlements since the Roman conquest of Palestine: Mikveh Israel (1870), Petach Tikvah (1878), Rishon Le-Zion and Zichron Ya'acov (1882), etc. All of these villages issued metal or paper tokens for use in lieu of hard currency, which was often in short supply, and in the absence of an efficient banking system, which was still years in the offing. (The most comprehensive treatment of these tokens is Arie Kindler's "Community Tokens of Jewish Settlements in Palestine," *Bulletin No. 7* (June 1965), Museum Ha'aretz, Tel Aviv.)

Kibbutzim (and their smaller antecedents, *kvutzot*) agricultural collectives or communal settlements, date from the founding of Degania Alef in 1909. Built on Jewish National Fund land and adhering to Zionist-Socialist tenets, everything is collectively owned except a small amount of personal

articles and clothing. The *kibbutz* seeks to meet all the needs of its members — health, food, recreation, education, etc. Hence, money does not circulate in *kibbutzim*, although scrip or tokens good for use in the local communal storerooms / commissaries were adopted by some settlements. Just how early the issuance of these kibbutz token began is not known, but the author would welcome readers' nominations for the distinction of "oldest kibbutz tokens."

First Moshav Created

In 1921, pioneers of Kvutza Degania Alef and others, decided upon a new venture in Zionist nation-building. Adopting elements of their socialist, collective agricultural life to the individualistic life of the "older" private farm settlements of the First Aliyah, they created the first *moshav*. A blending of cooperative settlement and marketing with the private family house, farm plots and nuclear family, the *moshavim* straddled the gap between the rigorous, even ascetic, life of the collective *kibbutz* and the "free enterprise" life of the towns. Working together, *moshav* families could enjoy the benefits of group effort and specialization of labor while, at the same time, they realized the dream of Jews for centuries: an individual home, a private plot of land to farm as one wished, and a community of fellow workers with whom to form a marketing cooperative as well as to sustain one in adversity.

The mother of all the *moshavim* — Nahalal — the focus of this numismatic tale, was founded in 1921 on Jewish National Fund land, about 15 miles southeast of Haifa, in the then-malarial swampland of the western Jezreel Valley. Each of the 80 founding families received 100 dunams of land — about 25 acres — and the right to defend the fledgling settlement against marauding Arab bands and deadly mosquitoes. For 15 years these pioneers lived in their original wooden huts, eking out a living from the marginal land sold to the world

Zionist movement by absentee Arab landlords.

Among the original settlers was Shmuel Dayan (1891-1968) who brought his first-born son there to be raised after his birth in Degania Alef. That young son, of course, grew up to be Israel's greatest military hero and later Minister of Defense, Moshe Dayan.

As Nahalal aged it also prospered. Its village layout, designed by Richard Kauffmann, set a standard for other *moshavim* and became, perhaps, Palestine's most famous aerial photograph. Set in a huge wheel, the village's concentric circles have public buildings and services at the center, rings of homes in the inner circle, followed by radiating fields in every direction.

When Israel was established in 1948, Nahalal was home to approximately 1,000 persons farming its 2,200 acres, and was providing food and fiber to the Jewish State's rapidly burgeoning cities. Nahalal's youth, among the cream of the fledgling state, were all in the Palmach. It was they, under Dayan, who captured Lydda (Lod) and its nearby airfield (now Ben Gurion International Airport) and moved on to help lift the siege of Jerusalem.

Three Tokens of Nahalal

Having sketched the social and historical background, we may now turn to the three tokens of Nahalal in the author's collection. As the photographs reveal, the most striking feature of the crudely made tokens is their denomination in Egyptian currency. This is explained by recalling that coinage of the British Mandate and Protectorate of Egypt was the official coin of the realm in Palestine from the time of the Turkish defeat in 1918 to the issuance of *Palestine Currency Board* coinage in 1927. Only in the latter year did mils and pounds replace the piastre, millieme and grush of Egypt (and Ottoman) usage.

Thus, we see three tokens, each inscribed on the top line "Kfar (vil-

(Continued on page 24)

YA'AKOV MESHORER, ISRAEL NUMISMATIC SCHOLAR, SHARES HIS TROVE WITH AMERICAN AUDIENCES

A REPORT IN COIN WORLD



Ya'akov Meshorer

The "flavor of history and atmosphere of a historic period" can readily be obtained by the study of ancient coins, noted Israeli numismatic scholar Yaakov Meshorer told his listeners during a presentation at the reception in his honor arranged by Amos Press in Sidney, Ohio's Imperial House, reported *Coin World*.

Many a city and many a ruler survive in historical consciousness only because they minted coins which can be studied by historians, who are often able to "reconstruct history" from the ancient pieces of metal, the archeologist emphasized.

Nothing is Accidental

Almost nothing is accidental to interpreters of coin history. The distribution of silver shekels and half shekels in coin hoards of the First Jewish Revolt against Rome, 66-70 AD, is a case in point, the speaker noted.

Numismatists know that both denominations are numerous in the first, second and third years of the revolt; only one half-shekel is known of the fourth year, and none at all are known of the fifth and final year of the Revolt.

The reasons for this distribution pattern are rooted deep in Jewish civil and religious history. At the time of the Revolt, each adult male Jew was obliged to contribute one half a shekel annually for the upkeep of the temple in Jerusalem, a fee payable only in Jewish-struck coinage of good silver.

Roman denarii or bronze coinage were unacceptable, as was the half-shekel, although the latter was a Jewish piece. The reason was that it took as much labor to strike a half as a whole shekel, and while the average weight of the shekel was 14 grams, the half averaged only 6.8 grams, or only 13.6 for two.

Thus two half shekels were really not equal to a single shekel in fine silver content, a result of seigniorage, the striking charge elicited by the Mint as its profit on coin manufacture.

Since the temple payment was a holy obligation that allowed no cutting of corners, only the best coin was acceptable, and a single shekel would be offered in payment for two adults, rather than two half-shekels of lower content.

The 'Obsolete' Half-Shekel

By the fourth year of the Revolt, only besieged Jerusalem was still holding out against Rome, rationing of a kind was probably in force, and the only need for coins was the payment of temple upkeep and the redeeming of the first born, rather than any normal commerce. The half shekel was really obsolete.

The slogans, inscriptions and propagandistic designs of coins are also an important study, Meshorer stressed. Most of what is known of the Second Revolt led by Shimon Bar-Kochba comes from his coinage, struck 132-135 A.D.

The Bar Kochba coins of the first year bear the exhortation, "For the redemption of Israel," indicating that the ruler had control of Jerusalem, and hoped to extend his sway to the Israeli countryside.

Coins of the next year begin to bear a new motto, "For the freedom of Jerusalem," indicating that the capital had been taken by the Roman forces and its recovery had become a major objective of the Jewish fighters.

Similarly, the coins tell of the ancient wildlife. The crocodile coins of Akko were until recently the only indication that these reptiles actually lived in the neighboring river. Then in recent digs, their bones have been found to reinforce the coins' testimony.

Biblical research has been greatly assisted by coin study, Meshorer pointed out. Numismatic expressions, coin denominations referred to in the text have helped pinpoint the time of writing for books such as Ezra, Zacharia and Daniel.

A Clue—the Evil King

The Book of Daniel long confused scholars with its references to past and future events, but the repeated reference to an evil king, on whom divine wrath was predicted to fall, gave the necessary clue to the time period.

The king referred to was never identified by name of country in the book of Daniel, but was repeatedly called the "radiate-crowned king." It so happened that during the Hellenistic period, two contending dynasties vied for the possession of the Palestinian area, the Ptolemaic and Seleucid empires.

The "radiate-crowned king" who was to be overthrown by a "new king" coming was the Seleucid ruler, whose coins always featured his portrait wearing a radiate crown. The time period was therefore that of Antiochus III, the conqueror of Israel in 198 B.C.

The oldest coin ever found in present-day Israel was a silver archaic-style Athenian tetradrachm of the fifth century B.C. found by the speaker

himself. Such coins, especially in coin hoards, are a valuable research tool, Meshorer emphasized.

A hoard tells a skilled researcher much. Besides finding coins in superior condition, the hoard tells what coins were in circulation together at the time the hoard was hidden, and thereby what the range of pocket change was at the time.

The amount of wear on the oldest and middle coins gives an indication of the length of time coins remained in use, the Israeli numismatist pointed out. One such example was a hoard of 200 pieces brought to the *Israel Museum*.

The oldest coin was a Roman piece of Nero, struck about 68 A.D. The latest coins were of a type struck in 224 A.D., giving a range of 150 years during which the Nero piece remained in active circulation.

In closing, Meshorer charmed his listeners with an amusing example of the dangers of youthful enthusiasm and coin-finding.

As a boy, he found a new spot in a neighboring garden, with coins scattered over it. With his twin brother, Meshorer hastened back, only to find that the plentiful coins were part of a collection, being thrown out an upper window by the little sister of their collector. What such a find could do to a careless historian can be imagined, the numismatist observed with a grin.

DR. MESHORER TO DELIVER FIVE LECTURES AT LONG ISLAND CLUB

The leading Israeli numismatist, Dr. Yaakov Meshorer, Numismatic Curator of the *Israel Museum*, Jerusalem, launched a five lecture series at the Israel Numismatic Society of Long Island, speaking first on commerce in the pre-coinage era. Secretary Emanuel Rubin in a memorandum to club members noted the quality of the lecture and indicated that members eagerly await Dr. Meshorer's return. The Israeli coin specialist was presented with the club's *Fifth Anniversary Philatelic Numismatic Cover*.

LONDON DEALER FINDS RARE PATTERN

A unique pattern of Israel's 1949 25 prutot coins has been discovered, according to a report from Chaim Jacoby, general manager of the rare coin department of Paramount International Coin Corp. in London, reported *Numismatic News Weekly*.

Although six of the patterns are known to exist in cupronickel, Jacoby said, the recently discovered piece is the only one known that was struck in aluminum. The patterns differ from regular circulation strikes in that they bear the notation "specimen" in the reverse design.

Jacoby said Sylvia Haffner, the well-known expert on Israeli coinage, has examined the piece and confirms that the aluminum specimen appears to have been struck from the same die as the cupronickel pieces of the same denomination.

In fact, Jacoby added, the alloy is the same dura aluminum from which the one pruta coins of 1949 were struck.

The 1949 series of Israel coins, including 1, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100, 250 and 500 prutot denominations, were struck by the Imperial Metals Industries in Birmingham, England. Jacoby said he has traced the history of the pattern and reports this was one of the seven different denominations ordered by the Israeli Government from IMI in 1948. At that time, only the one pruta was to be made of 9 percent aluminum.

Until 1969, there was no record of any denomination other than the one pruta having been struck in aluminum. In that year Peter Ireland of Blackpool, England, purchased two 25 pruta 1949 "specimen" patterns from a man who had been working at the IMI Mint from 1948 to 1959.

Sold—and Resold— Without Recognition

The two items were later sold to a London collector who resold them again in 1972 without any of the parties involved realizing the rarity of one of the two coins, which was the aluminum specimen issue, Jacoby said.

The London dealer also reported that he was approached recently by a collector to authenticate the piece and the rarity of it was confirmed. Additionally, Jacoby took the piece to the IMI Mint in Birmingham, where it was examined and confirmed as genuine. Later Jacoby said, he took a special trip to Israel to obtain further confirmations from experts residing in that country.

In Israel, Mrs. Haffner said she would include the unique pattern in her new book, "Patterns and Trial Pieces of Israel."

Readers desiring additional information on the pattern may contact Jacoby in care of Rare Coin Department Ltd., 238-245 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2, England.



A unique 1949 25 pruta "specimen" coin of Israel struck in aluminum, left, has been purchased by Paramount International Coin Corp. of London, England. Six of the pieces struck in Cupro-nickel, right, are known to exist.

“AINA TOUR PARTICIPANTS TO RECEIVE UNIQUE MEDAL AS GIFT”: BRAM



Tree tops converging radially towards the centre are featured on the reverse of a 35mm bronze medal to be issued only to participants in the Seventh Annual Study Tour of Israel. Sponsored jointly by AINA and the IGCAM, a highlight of the tour will take place on March 17th, 1975, with the inaugural planting of the A.I.N.A.

Forest in Jerusalem.

This medal was originally struck in 1971 in 59mm bronze and in 45mm silver for the *Jewish National Fund*. The same medal will be issued now in 35mm bronze, in a quantity limited to the number of participants in the A.I.N.A. Tour. The words “A.I.N.A. 1975” will appear on the rim.

AINA TOUR MEDALS: A BRIEF REVIEW

by Arthur Reich, AINA LM 75

On March 4th, 1975, we will again have the pleasure to depart to Israel, for the 7th annual study tour, sponsored by A. I. N. A. This trip should be more exciting with new and more events to see and visit.

In 1969, there were 76 people on the trip and each received the special Masada Medal, (SM-35) as a gift. (Value \$175.00) mintage only 100.

In 1970, there were 40 people on the trip and each received the special Jerusalem Medal (CCM-9) as a gift. (Value \$175.00) mintage only 100.

In 1971, there were 65 people on the trip and each received the special Valour Medal, (SM-2) as a gift (Value \$175.00) mintage only 100.

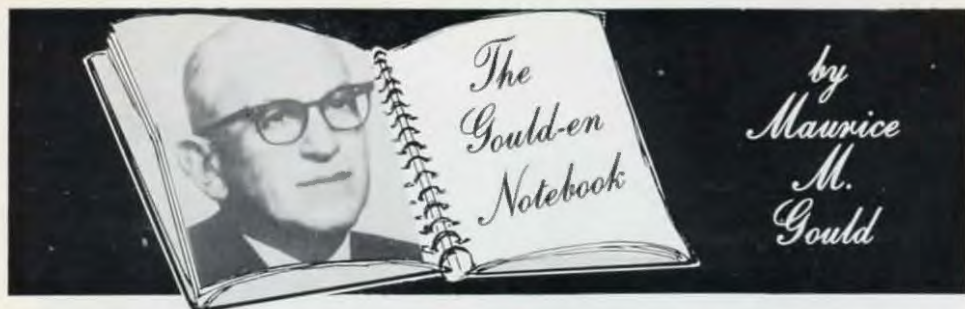
In 1972, there were 68 people on

the trip and each received the special Jerusalem Knesset Medal, (SM-46) as a gift. (Value \$175.00) mintage only 100.

In 1973, there were 126 people on the trip and each received the special 25th Anniversary Medal, (SM-47) as a gift. (Value \$225.00) mintage only 150.

In 1974, there were 58 people on the trip and each received the special A. I. N. A. Medal,, (SM-48) as a gift (value \$175.00) mintage only 100.

Again in 1975, we expect a good turn out and each person will receive a very special unusual Medal. (*Editors Note: see story on special JNF 35mm medal for AINA Tour Members described on this page.*)



Long before the modern *State of Israel*, I collected the exciting ancient coins which were mentioned in the Bible, and my enthusiasm for them has not dimmed over the years. Even before the modern State of Israel was founded, there was an *Israel Numismatic Society*, which came into existence on May 10, 1945. The six founders were D. Nudelman, H. Pavel, Dr. J. Meyshan, Dr. Leo Kadman, D. Kisson and Mrs. Kissen.

This first group was all amateur collectors of ancient coins who had no special knowledge of numismatics, except for Nudelman, a learned and experienced numismatist, who assisted and guided the other members of the group.

Most of the activity was on Palestinian and Jewish coinage and they were fortunate to obtain some outstanding lecturers, such as Professor Reifenberg and Dr. Stella Ben-Dor of the *Hebrew University* and Mordecai Narkiss, Director of the *Bezalel National Museum*.

I envy them because in addition to the lectures they had excursions to archeological sites, to Caesarea, Tantura and Askelon, and this was followed by lectures about their visits.

Each member concentrated on a specific area of coinage and a great deal was accomplished in this manner. Arie Kindler researched Hasmonean coinage, Leo Kadman did Caesarea Maritima, etc.

After five years the Society grew and decided to bring their researches before a larger group and numismatic conventions were begun. The first was held in Haifa in March of 1951 and was devoted to the problems of Jewish coinage. The second convention took

place in Tel Aviv in May of 1952 and dealt with the coins of the ancient cities of Palestine. The third, held in 1953, featured "*2,000 Years of Coins in Jerusalem*," Then a period of years elapsed until 1959, when the conventions were again restored. These conventions were attended by approximately 75 scholars and collectors and from Europe came such famous names as Dr. Leo Mildenberg of Zurich and Dr. Herbert A. Cahn of Basle, Switzerland.

By 1959, a great deal of work was being done. Leo Kadman was the President of the Society and such outstanding numismatists as Klimowsky, Kindler, Kanitz and others were members of the Central Committee. Much of the research was printed and made available to collectors all over the world.

The Society served as an Advisory body to the government in numismatic matters and after the *State of Israel* was established, the Society submitted proposals for designs and denominations of the new coins. Leo Kadman and Hanan Pavel worked together with designer Otte Wallish to prepare the designs for the eight new coins. The designs were submitted and approved without any alterations and were minted according to the specifications and under the supervision of the Society.

The first series of Israel stamps, called the "Coin Stamps," were also designed according to the suggestions of the Society and printed under their supervision. The Chairman of the group was appointed to the *Advisory Council* of the government and the *Bank of Israel* for the issue of new coins, medals and banknotes.



R: Regular issue 20-Lirot Gold.



C: Counterfeit Obverse.

THE INSIDIOUS COUNTERFEIT GOLD HERZL

by Edward Janis

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines "insidious" as: *awaiting a chance to entrap or "harmful but enticing."* Both of these descriptions adequately describe a counterfeit copy of the first gold coin of Israel now making the rounds. One was purchased by an unsuspecting collector while visiting Milan, Italy, about five years ago. The collector imported this coin as the *Herzl gold coin*, at the

time the only gold coin that could be imported legally.

Recently, two different well-informed dealers asked my opinion on a gold Herzl 20 Lirot piece that each acquired at a coin show. Both coins were identical. Both were struck from the same dies. Both were *counterfeit* copies, matching the only one that I had seen some years ago.



R: Regular issue, rounded.

C: Counterfeit—straight milled.



R.: Regular Issue—Reverse.



C.: Counterfeit—Reverse.

With the sudden interest in gold coins of Israel now that these are legal for possession by the American collector, it would be wise that the collecting public familiarize itself with this most beautiful and seductive Herzl counterfeit.

Similarities and Differences

Here are the similarities and differences of the counterfeit (*C*) and the regular (*R*).

Size: The diameter of the Regular is **EXACTLY** 22mm. The Counterfeit is slightly smaller.

Edge: *R* is rounded. *C* is square with better and deeper milling.

- Obverse:**
- 1) The outermost series of dashes do *not* blend into the edge on *R*.
 - 2) The LAMED on *R* does not touch a bar.
 - 3) The bottom points of the branches are sharp on *R* (not slightly rounded as on *C*).

Reverse: There are some minute differences in the reverse die but just remember this easily found one. Under Herzl's beard, a small dash representing the right lapel of the jacket can be seen on *R*. It is *missing* on *C*.

This is a deceiving fake which appears to have been struck from dies made by the "spark erosion process". I did not have an opportunity either to weigh or perform a specific gravity test. Because of the master workmanship, *I believe this to be an Italian product* and further I would guess that the fineness of the gold will **EXCEED** the .9166 of the original and the weight may *exceed* the official 7.988 gm. In a famous case in Italy where a counterfeiting group were tracked down by British agents for counterfeiting the gold £5 sovereigns, the court dismissed the case because the coins contained more gold of infinitesimally *higher* fineness than the mint product.

JUDAEAN JOTTINGS

by Mel Wacks

IN PRAISE OF HANDS



This last summer, I attended a special crafts exhibit — *IN PRAISE OF HANDS* — held at Toronto's magnificent new science center. The exhibit feature many dozens of craftsmen — some amateur, others professional — who are enjoying the satisfaction of creating artistic (and often useful) objects with their own hands. There is similar pleasure of ownership of man-made (as opposed to machine-made) artifacts.

Toronto also happens to be the home of Canada's foremost medallist/sculptor — Dora de Pédery Hunt — who is one of the few practitioners of the renaissance technique of casting limited edition fine art medals. Mrs. Hunt was kind enough to allow me (and my family) to visit her home which also serves as her studio.

The first impression, aside from the high ceilings and over-large windows, was the prolific output of Mrs. Hunt which literally covered many table tops — both older editions and those under production. There were large plaster models of an officially commissioned medal honoring Canada's Premier Trudeau and another of Dr. Erlich; there were wax impressions for jewelry pieces with humorous mythical Indian characters which is one of Mrs. Hunt's favorite motifs; these models would be transformed via the "lost wax" process into bronze and silver pendants. And there was much more — an architectural model, small

bronze sculptures, and sketches in clay for a new, still "secret" project.

Mrs. Hunt could certainly never be accused of laziness. In addition to executing commissions (many from Canadian Governmental agencies) she continually creates new medals and other sculptures for herself so as not to become tied down to the commercial marketplace.

Mrs. Hunt appreciates true medallic art and has an extensive medal collection of the finest works created around the world — in Finland, Italy, France, Poland, etc. Unfortunately, there is a virtual dearth of true art

"We All Thank You"

The Metro Toronto Zoo, 1972 (97mm).



Medallist/Sculptor: Dora de Pedery Hunt

medals from the United States where the conservatism of small, low relief proof-quality medals seems to prevail.

While some of Mr. Hunt's designs have been used for struck medals, undoubtedly her best work is reserved for the large, extremely high relief medals — often non-round in shape — which she casts in small editions and which she individually finishes, patinates, etc. She feels that a cast medal is superior to a struck medal in its "texture" and "feel" — it is a direct creation of the sculptor rather than being a product of machines.

Cast medals have tended to be frowned up by Americans (though not by Europeans familiar with the Renaissance tradition) due probably to the association between a "cast" and a counterfeit. But, it should be pointed out in this technological age many counterfeits are also struck! Only through extensive education might Americans learn of the qualities of cast fine art medals but since cast medals can only be made in relatively small quantities it does not seem likely that many entrepreneurs will promote them in the near future.

Dora de Pédery Hunt's love for her art is summed up in this quote from her recently published book **MEDALS**:

"Adam and Eve with Owl"
1965 (70mm).



"The medal always intrigues me. I find it equally exciting to make one or to own one . . . wait until you own one; you will discover for yourself that there is really magic in a medal . . . Feel the tension of the surface. There is life underneath. It is not a cold piece of metal anymore: trees grow here, bodies leap high, faces emerge. All this is brought about by you, and only you can arrest this magic moment or change it at any time with a slight flick of your fingers . . . Let it happen, for your medal just came to life."

Mrs. Hunt has created many medals on Judaic and Old Testament themes, and expects to produce many more. Two of these medals are illustrated; each is cast in bronze.

THE 1927 NEW CURRENCY ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

by Jack H. Fisher

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There have been sufficient inquiries concerning information desired to be published to warrant the assembling of such information concerning the initial introduction of the paper money and coins of the *Palestine Currency Board* to the public in Palestine and the reaction of the public to this new legal tender to replace the existing paper money and coins in use at that time in 1927. The problems of setting up a complete new currency system and the redemption of the existing currency in use was a monumental task, but the following will attempt to profile the facts pertaining to this task and its implementation.

The *Palestine Currency Board* had no reliable means of estimating the quantities of notes and coins required. It was originally decided to provide 1,500,000 pounds in notes and 750,000 pounds in coins. Then, shortly thereafter the Board increased the notes to 2,160,000 pounds. The Board soon learned the original estimate of currency to meet the requirements was too low in the case of notes and too high in the case of coin, although the estimate of the total currency required was almost correct.

The Board had already settled arrangements for the supply of the coins by the Royal Mint, and the various details of design, size, weight and composition having been settled

with the concurrence of the Palestine Government that a definite order for the supply was placed with the Mint on December 23, 1926. The required silver bullion was supplied at the then market price of 24 11/16 d. per ounce. The first shipment left London on June 16, 1927.

A Delayed Introduction

The contract for printing the notes was placed in March, 1927. There was some substantial time consumed in the selection of proper designs and the submission and approval of proofs. It was impossible to obtain delivery of the complete first order in London before the middle of September.

The object of the Board in pressing for deliveries was to make it possible for the new currency to be introduced on October 1, 1927. Problems were encountered consisting of an earthquake in Palestine and of adjustments in financial matters before introduction of the new currency, so the Government of Palestine decided to postpone this date by a month. The new currency was then actually introduced on November 1, 1927. The Currency Officer and the Agent Bank for the issue of the new currency and the redemption of the old arranged twenty centers throughout Palestine as well as consignments sent to Transjordan.

A very intricate security organization was developed to provide the

principal center at Jerusalem and the other centers with a sufficient supply of notes and coin to meet the demands of the populations as well as the collection and transmission to Egypt of the redeemed currency under armed guard. The requirements of the public were met on a smooth basis and great credit should have been given to the Currency Officer, the Agent Bank and the Palestine Government for the efficient manner in which the new Palestine Board Currency was introduced to the Palestine public.

The Palestine Government immediately educated the public to the new currency with an advertising campaign explaining the objects and main features of the new currency. The new currency was well received by all sections of the Palestine community and the public approved of the appearance of new currency, especially the notes. The public relations program was so excellent that the new currency was adopted by the Palestine public without complaint or major incidents.

Redeeming Egyptian Money

The High Commissioner declared in a Proclamation of February 9, 1928 that Egyptian gold, notes, silver and nickel coins, which were then legal tender in Palestine, should cease to be legal tender March 31, 1928. The High Commissioner then issued a similar proclamation respecting the British gold sovereign on February 29, 1928. This resulted in a period of five months (November 1, 1927 to March 31, 1928) for the withdrawal of the currency previously circulating in Palestine and the replacement of such currency by the new Palestine currency.

That in this period the Egyptian notes redeemed by the Board were transmitted to Egypt in exchange for remittances in London given by the bank of issue, the National Bank of Egypt. The Egyptian coin repatriation was more difficult and was the subject of negotiations between the Governments of Egypt and Palestine. The negotiations resulted in Egypt accept-

This is the 1-pound Palestine Currency Board note which replaced Egyptian currency as of March 31, 1928. Notes were produced in 1, 5, 10 and other denominations.



ing and giving remittances to London.

The Currency Officer reported that as of March 31, 1928 that the amounts of Egyptian currency withdrawn from circulation represented approximately 1,810,000 Palestinian pounds in notes and approximately 284,000 Palestinian pounds in coin. The amount of the new currency issued in exchange was approximately 1,899,000 Palestinian pounds in notes and 195,000 Palestinian pounds in coin.

The *Palestine Currency Board* approved arrangements whereby issues of Palestine currency could be obtained in Palestine on short notice in exchange for payment in sterling in London. It was required that the minimum transaction acceptable was 10,000 Palestinian pounds and a commission of 1/8 per cent was charged by the Board. The leading banks deposited securities with the *Board* in London to cover issues, made on demand, to meet their requirements. Exchanges, except for commission on certain

transactions, were made at the rate of a pound for a pound, so that the parity of the Palestine pound with the British pound sterling was maintained.

Just before the introduction of the new currency in Palestine, the Transjordan Government decided to adopt the *Palestine Currency Board* currency commencing as of its date of introduction in Palestine, being November 1, 1927. The total issues of currency in Palestine during the period November 1, 1927 to March 31, 1928 amounted to 2,192,348 Palestinian pounds and during the same period currency amounting to 305,000 Palestinian pounds was returned to stocks in Palestine. The above figures include issues for circulation in Palestine and Transjordan.

Any individuals with additional information or comments concerning the above material are requested to contact Jack H. Fisher, Attorney at Law, 912 American National Bank Building, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006.

BRAM RECEIVES JERUSALEM MARCH MEMENTOS

Ephraim Levy,
Jerusalem,
ISRAEL.
October 6, 1974

Dear Morris,

As you may know the traditional Jerusalem March takes place each year during the high holidays. This year over 30,000 marchers including a few thousand marchers from abroad participated in the march, which was concluded with a colorful fanfare received by the Prime Minister and the Mayor of Jerusalem. Each participant

in the march is awarded a certificate and a medal that reads on top of the medal "Jerusalem March 1974" and at the bottom "Israel Defence Forces."

I managed to get hold of one spare certificate and medal and I could not think of any better friend deserving the medal than Morris Bram, the fervent collector of Israeli coins and medals. I hope this medal will enhance your collection.

I trust you are in good health and spirit as ever.

With warmest regards to Lina, Nachum and my friends on the Board of A.I.N.A.

Malca and I wish you a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
EPHRAIM

Editor's Note: Mr. E. Levy will be well and fondly remembered as Director for North America of the IGCAM in recent years.





The "special issue" ten- *lirot*, "Let My People Go" (Freedom) commemorative issued in 1971, has been found with a single-die variety. The gold coins of this issue was struck at the Berne mint, and at the time the Bank of Israel asked the Berne mint to make up a die for the silver ten-*lirot* in proof. The die was made and several samples were sent to the Bank for approval. Upon examining the coins the Bank felt that the die was too concave and would eventually cause the rims to buckle. They cancelled the order and placed the new order with S. Kretschmer and Sons, Jerusalem, where many of the dies for the commemorative coins are now made. The coins were struck by the Government mint in Jerusalem.

When the Berne mint sent in their shipment of the 100 *lirot* gold coins and dies they also included the one-ten-*lirot* die and 60 to 80 coins that had been struck when testing the die. Most of the coins were shipped out to collectors along with the Kretschmer die strikes and was not discovered until much later! (This is reminiscent of the 100 *Pruta* Utrecht-die that was

released in 1957 and the die-variety was discovered in 1960.)

This die variety is considered to be the rarest coin in the commemorative series and is widely sought by the collector.

The main differences between the two different dies are as follows:

BERNIE DIE

The planchet is more concave.
The planchet is 1.0 mm. thicker.

OBVERSE

The "mem" is open and higher from the rim.
The emblem is 10.0 mm. across.
The date "1971" is 7.0 mm. across.
The legends are inset from the rim.
Planchet has a true-proof surface with all high relief in matte.

REVERSE

The lettering is high and thick.

KRETSCHMER DIE

The planchet is flatter.
The planchet is 1.0 mm. thinner.

OBVERSE

The "mem" is closed and closer to rim.
The emblem is 9.0 mm. across.
The date "1971" is 8.0 mm. across.
The legends are on the rim.
Planchet is proof-like with some high relief in matte.

REVERSE

The lettering is flat and sharp.

The ALPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. What is to stop someone from stamping in the word SPECIMEN on an uncirculated 25 Pruta 1949 with pearl, a four dollar coin, and raising its value to say \$10,000 or even \$15,000? After all, it would only be the tenth one known.

L.K., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

A. Sounds logical except for one thing. On this rare pattern piece, even though the Kagin book says "the English word "SPECIMEN" was stamped between the date "5709" and the word "SPECIMEN" appears in raised letters and not incused. I am sure as time goes by, some sharp character will attempt to glue these small letters on an uncirculated coin. This has been attempted on U.S. Mercury dimes of 1916. The addition of a small D on the reverse to signify the scarce Denver mint issue has fooled more than one collector who has relied on his eyesight alone. You can't fool a 30X glass; evidence of the solder or glue will show up. The chances of even aligning the eight minute letters of SPECIMEN in the exact position to known photographs of the one die used for this issue would be practically astronomical odds if one considers the variables of size, shape, color, placement and spacing of each letter. In my opinion, such a spurious attempt would be an exercise of futility to a knowledgeable well-informed buyer.

Q. We hear that Israel will eventually have and use a unit of money that will be called a "shekel". Has not this been done before with the issuance of the half-shekel Purim coins of 1961 and 1962?

R.R., Pittsburgh, Pa.

A. We call them half shekel pieces. The replica of the ancient half shekel

of the Year Three on the reverse shows a chalice with the inscription in ancient Hebrew for "Half a Shekel". This coin is legal tender. On the obverse in the center field is the inscription "Chatzi Lirah" or translated from the Hebrew, "Half-Lira". The denomination is Lira, not Shekel.

Q. At a recent auction in New York City, I examined a silver Liberation medal with plugs. It is fairly rare, with Kagin showing (SM-1f) a total issue of 386 pieces. The plugs or "balloons" were ground out just as it appears on Page 135 of Kagin's "Israel's Coins and Medals". Could not an unscrupulous person place the same grinding marks on the regular silver 61 mm. medal. How can you tell the difference?

C.L., Far Rockaway, New York

A. I have examined a few of the plugged silver restrikes and you are quite correct in stating that the obverses of some of them show no evidence of the plug within the grind marks. However, flip the medal over and you can still make out RAISED plug marks on the reverse. They are faint but nevertheless there. If these are not visible, forget it; you have an attempted forgery. The medal in the New York sale was genuine. The plugs were discernable with a low powered magnifying glass.

Q. I have just completed my set of Israel's Commemorative coins except the gold coins which I find prohibitively costly at this time. What series should I now concentrate on? I like coins, not paper or medals.

Dr. R.L., Philadelphia, Pa.

A. Your question reminds me of the fellow who went into one of the finest

(Continued on page 32)

PEARL-MARK VARIETIES OF 1949 SERIES PRUTA

by Dr. R. D. Larisch,
Tel-Aviv



Enlargement of "PEARL"

According to literature — Leo Kadman, *Israel's Money* (1963) — the small pearl mark represents a mint mark intended to distinguish the coins minted by the Metal Division of the I. C. I. Mint in Birmingham (more widely known as the King's Norton Mint or Kynoch Mint) from the coins without pearl, struck at the Mint Birmingham Ltd. M. B. L. (better known as the Heaton Mint). The 100 Pruta coin, *Catalog No. 184* is described too as containing the pearl, but I was unable to find such a coin with pearl. Other catalogs do not mention this 100 Pruta coin with pearl mark.

With and Without

The catalog of S. Haffner — *Modern Israel's Money* (1970) — cites 6 denominations: 1, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 250 pruta *with* and *without* pearl. According to this catalog (page 10), this pearl was part of the artist's design. However the master dies did not possess the pearl mark. After completing the striking of the 100 pruta and part of the 50 pruta coins, the pearl mark was then added to the working dies at the I. C. I. mint. This explains the non-existence of the pearl mark on the 100 pruta coin and the scarcity on the 50 pruta coin with pearl. All coins struck at the M. B. L. Mint do not contain a pearl mark.

The Pruta coins with denomination of 1, 5, 10, 25, and 250 Pruta show the pearl mark in different distances from the link: almost adhering to the



1949/5709/ תש"ט

link and in different distances free-standing; on some coins at a distance of 2 times or more than the diameter of the pearl. I have had no specimen on which to check the 50 Pruta coin on pearl mark varieties.

This mark was engraved (or drilled) separately in the working die. Possibly this was done because it was part of the artist's design or as a mark for distinguishing the different dies. The pearl mark was not always engraved on the same spot but in different distances from the middle of the link and there exist off-centered marks too. Therefore these marks show numbers of working dies used.

In postage stamp printing, especially in Britain where the coins were struck, it was also customary to distinguish printing plates by addition of special marks (Plate No. etc.) and they are cited separately in catalogs (i.e. *Stanley Gibbons postage stamp catalog, part I, British Empire*).

Three Variants

Therefore, because of the different appearance of these coin-details regarding the pearl mark and the great quantities of these different marks available, some varieties can be distinguished on these coins:

Pearl mark 1) adhering (or close) to the link.

Pearl mark 2a) free standing.

Pearl mark 2b) free standing, off-centered.

NEW VARIANT OF A COIN OF A ROMAN PROCURATOR OF JUDEA REPORTED

There exists a new variant of a coin of Valerius Gratus, 15-26 C.E. (under Tiberius, 14-37 C.E. of the year). The regular coin is similar to *B.M.C. No. 31, Catalog Reifenberg No. 128* and *Meshorer No. 226*.

The variant is different from the regular coin because of the wreath which is upside down to the script TIB/KAI/CAP (the wreath is inverted). This specimen: diam. 16mm., weight 2.26 grms.

I informed the director of the *Kadman Numismatic Museum*, Mr. A. Kindler, of this variety and he told me that in the collection of the museum there is another specimen with the wreath upside down. Thus, the existence of more specimens of that coin is established.

Therefore this coin may be described as a new variety of the year 4 of the reign of Tiberius — 17/18 C.E.

In literature, a similar variety of the year 4 is cited (*Meshorer No. 227 A*).

Mr. Kindler has been kind enough to point out that there exists the possibility that the die was made by two die-makers; one engraved the wreath; the other one the script. In this case, the second die-maker unattentively engraved the script upside down in relation to the wreath. This may point out

to a specialisation and work division of die-makers 2000 years ago.

I thank Director A. Kindler for his kind assistance on this matter.

Dr. R. Larisch, Tel-Aviv.

REVISED PRICES ON GHETTO FIGHTERS HOUSE MEDALS

In *The Shekel* (Fall, 1974), the dramatic story of the Ghetto Fighters House, Kibbutz Lohamei Haghetat, Israel was told in detail and medals struck to honor events in connection with the Warsaw Uprising, the memory of the Bialystok Ghetto and of the Jewish partisans and forest fighters were described.

We regret that prices provided did not reflect earlier price changes in the medals. The correct prices for 1974 were:

Bronze, 59mm, 100gwt	\$16.00
Bronze, silver-plated, 59mm, 100gwt.	\$20.00
Bronze, gold-plated, 59mm, 100gwt.	\$23.00
Silver, 59mm, 100gwt.	\$80.00

Orders may be sent to: *Ghetto Fighters House, D. N. Asherat 25220, Israel*.

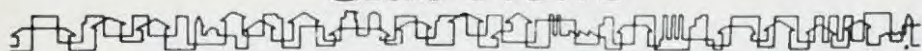
NAHALAL (Continued from page 8)

lage) of Nahalal", each reading on the bottom line "Machsan Meshutaf" (communal storeroom). In the center are the denominations, respectively: 1 millieme, 1 and 2 "grusch Mitzri" (abbreviated g.m.) (Egyptian grusch). The 1 millieme and 2 grusch are printed on pale blue cardboard, the 1 grusch on greenish stock. Signatures in ink appear to read "Zaslavski" and other illegible names. There are no inscriptions on the reverse. Sizes of the three pieces vary from 50 x 45

mm. to 50 x 35 mm. Unfortunately, nothing else is known about the tokens, such as their printer, quantity issued or, indeed, whether other denominations were issued by the hardy settlers of Nahalal.

Perhaps it is not too late to reconstruct the numismatic history of pre-State Palestine. But if it is to happen at all, collectors will have to pool their knowledge before all but the elusive scraps of cardboard and metal vanish from sight and understanding.

Club News



INS. OF MIAMI RECOGNIZED FOR ISRAELI GIFT

A letter of acknowledgement for INS of Miami's \$600.00 contribution to the *Combined Jewish Appeal — Israel Emergency Fund Campaign* was recently received by member Edward Schuman. Campaign manager L. Jules Arkin thanked the Florida group for the donation which will be used for humanitarian services.

INS. OF WASHINGTON, D. C. TALKS TURKEY

The Washington D. C. INS's pre-Thanksgiving meeting featured Vice-President Adolph Bondy's "show and tell" presentation on "How to Read Turkish Coins." Bondy gave light to these coins which served for a long time as legal tender in Palestine. Club members were invited to bring Turkish coins from their collections to the meeting.

At a subsequent club meeting, the group's newly elected 1975 officers were announced:

President—Nelson M. Whitman
Vice-President—Joseph Bles
Treasurer—Herschel Katz
Recording Secretary—Myra Rosenthal
Corresponding Secretary—Julius Cohn

WESTCHESTER INS FIRST TO HOST DR. MESHORER

Dr. Ya'akov Meshorer, Numismatic Curator of the *Israel Museum* and lecturer on numismatics at the Hebrew University initiated his series of speaking engagements at INS clubs with a lecture at the *Westchester Israel Numismatic Society*.

His lecture entitled, "Coins in Circulation in the Holy Land During the personal slide collection. Retracing the earliest beginnings of trade, Dr.

Meshorer explored not only the history of coinage, but of stone weights, metal ingots, and other means of commercial exchange as well. Following his speech, club members participated in an unusually spirited question and answer period with the specialist.

Dr. Meshorer rejoined the Westchester Club as guest speaker at their annual banquet arranged by Dinner Chairman Dr. Melvin Hennisch. At this occasion, he spoke about "Minting Techniques of the Ancients."

Dr. Ignaz Ferber, acting as chief of the nominating committee, recommended the following slate of 1975 officers which was unanimously elected:

President—Philip Sperber
Vice-President—Dr. Melvin Hennisch
Treasurer—Albert Schmeidler
Secretary—Martin Morgenstern

ILLINOIS LEARNS FROM SPEAKERS AND EXHIBITS

Recent activities at the *Israel Numismatic Society of Illinois* have included a wide range of lectures and numerous exhibits. Among the club's recent speakers was Rabbi Norman Berlat who discussed the early history of Jews in the United States. Exhibitors at this meeting included Robert Leonard who showed coins from Ptolemaic Egypt and the city of Tyre. A piece of the famous Cleopatra VII and a shekel of Tyre highlighted his display.

A most unusual Sabbath oil lamp with six elongated cups to hold oil, a family heirloom, was presented to the group's attention by member Ernest Levy. Also displayed at this meeting were Dr. Alan Feinberg's spinner token which, when in motion, showed a cross of Jerusalem; and Dr. Saul Needleman's token that resembled the 1949 pruta coin bearing the addi-



The INSJ Officers and Board at their annual installation dinner held at the *CHANTICLER*, Millburn, N. J., Oct. 1974. The officers installed from left to right:

Seated: Margaret Moore, recording sec'y.; Laura Rosenblum, corresponding sec'y.; Morris Bram who installed the officers; N. Hachohen, featured speaker; Ruth Moskowitz.

Standing: Walter D. Moore Jr., treasurer; Carl Rosenblum, trustee; Eric Baelen, trustee; Milton Gottlieb, trustee; Dr. Harold Grubin, 1st Vice-President; Sidney Moskowitz, President; Robert Schonwalter, 2nd vice-President; Howard Finke, outgoing President; Sol Riveles, trustee; Louis Susskind, trustee; William Miller, trustee; Zoltan Husth, sergeant-at-arms.

tional legend: "Chanukah/Gelt R. S.-K. S."

The evening speaker at another recent meeting was member Nathan Eglit, an authority on medallion history during the period of Christopher Columbus. His topic for the evening was "Christopher Columbus — A Jew?" Aaron Kaplan discussed the book, *Domestic and Foreign Coins Manufactured by the Mints of the U. S. 1793-1970*.

MONTREAL'S INCUMBENT OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

The incumbent officers at the INS of Montreal were re-elected by acclamation at the club's recent election meeting. Serving for a second term were:

President—Isidore Baum

1st Vice President—

Abraham Gerszonowicz

2nd Vice President—Bernard Richler

Treasurer—Lou Lazanik

Secretary—Catherine Schiff

New club chairmanships were also announced at the recent meeting. Robert Teitlebaum will be responsible for the library; Carl Burg will work with the new issues; and telephone duties will be assumed by Max Hal-

trecht. Chairman Naor will be involved with promoting JNF trees through AINA.

Further club educational efforts included showing of the slide show prepared by Claire and Ben Abelson of Los Angeles club. The presentation featured Israel's 10 pound coins.

Other recent speakers have included Mr. Nahum Hachohen, N. A. director of IGCAM who reviewed the various educational aspects of AINA, referring to recent seminars held in the U. S. by Israeli numismatic specialist, Dr. Ya'akov Meshorer.

INS OF GREATER PITTSBURGH VIEWS YAD VaSHEM PROGRAM

A unique Yad VaShem exhibit and slides were featured at a meeting of the *Israel Numismatic Society of Greater Pittsburgh, Pa.* when it was held in the Sol Rosenbloom library of the Hebrew Institute.

The program was conducted by Rabbi Aaron S. Ilson, society president, whose color slides were taken in the course of his sabbatical and extended pilgrimage with Mrs. Ilson to Israel.



Y. Avni, Director-General of the IGCAM explains Israel numismatic growth program to guests and members of new INS of Queens, a N.Y.C. area.

FORMAL CEREMONY LAUNCHES NEW QUEENS INS

In a formal ceremony held in the Flushing area of New York City in early December, AINA's newest society, *The Israel Numismatic Society of Queens* was officially inaugurated by AINA President Morris Bram. President Pro-Tem Moe Weinschel chaired the opening meeting. Opening remarks were made by Nahum Hacohen and Ed Janis. Yitzhak Avni, visiting from Israel, spoke before the attending group of 185 on the current situation in Israel. An inaugural

plaque was presented by Morris Bram to Moe Weinschel who accepted it on behalf of the new organization. Morris Bram was then presented with Membership Card #1 by the group's acting president.

A roster of 74 members signed up for membership in the new club. Exhibits featuring various aspects of Israel's numismatics were created for the initial meeting by members Dave Nathan, Morty Zerder, Arthur Reich, Jay Van Grover and Moe Weinschel.



President pro-tem Moe Weinschel addresses new group.

Pro-tem officers serving are: President — Moe Weinschel, Vice-President — Robert Lane, Treasurer — Arthur Reich, Recording Secretary — Lillian Singer and Corresponding Secretary — Rose Reich. Ed Baruch is publicity chief; Ed Janis is in charge of programming and education. 1975 permanent elections were set for the group's February meeting.

MIAMI INS RETAINS OFFICERS

B. J. Rubinstein, reporting on behalf of the nominating committee of the INS of Miami recently advised the club that the 1974 officers ran the operation smoothly enough to justify recommending the entire team be re-elected for the 1975 term. The club's annual banquet was a vast success with sixty members present for the occasion.

President Sidney Olson's recent trip to Tangiers was the subject of a recent talk. He presented several religious items which he had collected from almost defunct synagogues. Jerry Tralins served as auctioneer at a recent auction where proceeds were contributed to the *Israel Emergency Fund*.

The first meeting of 1975 opened with an attendance of 35 people, with three new members enrolled at this meeting, which brings our membership to about 100 of the *INS of greater Miami*.

The group was delighted to sell, at this meeting, the Ben Gurion coins that had just arrived during the afternoon prior to the meeting. Those buying these coins were quite impressed with the beauty and the quality of their striking.

Ed Schuman, a past President, announced efforts that will organize another AINA day during the *International Coin Show* at the Deauville Hotel in January 1976. In this way, the club will be one of the motivators as well as sponsors of this event.

After the meeting an education program by Hy Sootin, another past President, was presented on ancient coins and how they relate to history. He further developed an analogy of

inflation in ancient coins and how they relate to inflation today.

Educational forums are set up for meetings in the coming months.

ISRAEL NOTE SLIDE PROGRAM AT WASHINGTON INS

A slide presentation and talk headed the program at a recent meeting of the Israel Numismatic Society of Washington, D. C. The subject was "Notes Issued by the State of Israel" since its founding in 1948. The talk was centered on notes of 1948, 1952 and 1955, many of which were on display.

Following the program, a question and answer period was held for further enlightenment. This included a short session on grading paper money.

President Ruby Fier and member Barry Fox of the INS of Maryland recently visited with the Washington INS. Invitations were extended to members of both clubs. Further, the Maryland group has suggested that visitors to the Baltimore area from outside INS groups feel welcome to attend club meetings during their Maryland visit.

When a Baltimore department store recently sponsored an official display of coins and medals on loan from the IGCNC, club members hastily prepared flyers to recruit from among the store's interested customers. The club awaits the results of this publicity venture.

CLEVELAND VIEWS MEDALS AND MENORAHS

A recent meeting at the *Israel Numismatic Society of Cleveland* featured a slide show of Israeli medals. Jack Davidson presented slides of the medals of Avram Lerner and provided the club with information on the history of these pieces.

At an earlier meeting Charles Leuten displayed his collection of Menorahs acquired over the years.

Future lectures for the group include one to be given by Dr. Ya'akov Meshareri, curator of the Numismatic Department at the *Israel Museum* in Jerusalem.

S. CALIFORNIA CLUBS HOLD FIRST JOINT MEETING

On December 8, 1974, the four Israel Coin Clubs of Southern California held their first joint meeting sponsored by AINA and IGCAM. The participant clubs were *Israel Club of Los Angeles*, *Israel Numismatic Society of San Gabriel Valley*, *Israel Coin Club of San Fernando Valley* and *Israel Numismatic Society of Orange County*.

Prior to the meeting's official opening, Israeli entertainer Pini Cohen provided entertainment for the attending members. Guest speaker, Director General Yitzhak Avni, spoke on "Israeli Numismatics, Past, Present and Future." AINA President Morris Bram then discussed "AINA Today."

The event was chaired by Ben Abelson who also served as Master of Ceremonies. Also featured in this program was a coin club meeting conducted by the presidents of the four clubs: Dr. Sol Taylor of the Los Angeles Club; Mr. Lester Dubin of San Gabriel Valley; Mrs. Peggy Borgolte of San Fernando Valley; and Mr. Bob Koppel of Orange County.

Prior to the joint meeting, *The Israel Numismatic Society of Orange County* held its first installation banquet. Guests of honor Nahum Hacohen, IGCAM; Morris Bram, President, AINA; and Yitzhak Avni, Director General, IGCAM were featured guest at the celebration.

Following the joint meeting, the three guests of honor joined the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles at their installation banquet. This club is entering its tenth year.



A special edition of the Los Angeles Times was distributed at the first joint meeting of Southern California's four Israel coins clubs by Lester Dubin, president of the San Gabriel Valley group.

L. A. CLUB GAINS NEW OFFICERS

The new 1975 officers at the *Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles* include:

President—Val Mogensen
1st Vice President—Emanuel Day
2nd Vice President—Dr. Nathan Gitlin
Recording Secretary—Evelyn Sadler
Corres. Secretary—Sarah Breslow
Treasurer—Nathan Bromberg

Past President Sol Taylor leaves his post to serve as president of the *Numismatic Association of Southern California*.

Moving into its tenth year, the Los Angeles club hails 200 paid-up members. The club's Board of Governors are: Ben Abelson, Milt Fishgold, Phil Max, Bill Sadler, Helen Coombs, Carl Lerner, Cliff Roth, Murray Singer, and Sol Taylor.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY PLANNING FOR HOLY LAND COIN AND STAMP SHOW

The *INS of San Gabriel Valley* (Calif.) has begun plans for the *2nd Holy Land Coin and Stamp Show* to be held in Pasadena on May 17 and 18. The following chairmen have been named to lead committees.

General Chairwoman: Sally Marx

Co-chairman: Lester Dubin

Registration: Alva Christensen and Ethel Stone

Assistant Registration and Finances:

Nate Bromberg

Bourse: Ralph Marx and Leonard Hammer

Exhibits: Donna Sims and Tom Gallagher

Judging: Sally Marx and Milton Fishgold

Awards: Donna Sims, James Evergreen, and Joseph Dombrowski

Wood Souvenir and Fliers: Lester Dubin

Publicity: Len Sterling and Esther Bromberg

Security: Jerry Yahalom and Lee King

Door Prizes and Raffle Tickets Sales:

Sarah Breslow

Sale of Raffle Tickets: Esther Taller and

Sarah Breslow

Hostesses: Lillian Friedman, Bernice Roth

and Elizabeth Hammer

Photographers: Tom and George Allson

Sale of Souvenirs: Esther Bromberg

A recent guest speaker, Mel Wacks ex-New Yorker, member of AINA's Board of Directors, delivered a lecture entitled: "Ancient Numismatic Reflections . . . First Revolt."

TIDEWATER VIRGINIA PRESENTS NEW ELECTIONS SLATE

The Nomination Committee of the Tidewater Virginia INS recently presented the following slate of officers and directors to be considered in the upcoming election.

President: Milton Becker

Vice-President: A. I. (Buddy) Axelrod

Secretary: Larry Miller

Treasurer: Henry Ullman

Directors: Bill Bailey, Howard Kahn, Ted Maroulis, Mrs. David Nesson and Phil Weiner.

Among other recent club activities were a Chanukah party and showing of a film program: "Coin-Medals of Historical Cities in Israel."

Members of the Israel Numismatic Society of Tidewater Virginia, Norfolk, were able to hear a presentation made on coin security at a recent meeting. Officer Hightower of the Virginia Beach Police Department showed a film. He is one of the High Incident Target Squad (HIT), who make appearances before various groups.

DR. MESHORER IN LECTURE SERIES IN BROOKLYN

The *Israel Numismatic Society of Brooklyn, N. Y.*, set up a series of five lectures by Dr. Yaakov Meshorer, numismatic consultant to the *Israel Museum* and an instructor at the *Hebrew University*.

He is in the United States doing research at the *American Numismatic Society* headquarters.

The series started in November and sessions will be held monthly until the conclusion on March 19. The site is the Flatbush Jewish Center, Ocean Parkway and Church Avenue. Members of all Israel groups and the American Israel Numismatic Association were invited to attend.

"Why Collect Ancients" was the subject of the presentation made at a recent session by Herb Kriendler. The finale was the showing of coins of the talk. He also had books from his personal library and suggested all present do some research in the future.

MASS. LEARNS ABOUT ISRAEL FOREST PLANS

The *INS of Massachusetts* recently gained information on the establishment of the AINA forest in Israel. Former club president, Ed Shade, National Chairman of the project, provided members with details concerning the creation of Forest and Groves. He also introduced Gad Baler, Executive Director of the *Jewish National Fund* of New England. The forest will be dedicated by AINA on its scheduled March trip to Israel.

"Chanuka Coins" was the theme of a lecture by Roni Grad. A series of Mr. Grad's articles have been published in *Coin World*.

DR. MESHORER ADDRESSES INS OF NEW JERSEY

The INS of New Jersey's closing meeting for 1974 was highlighted by the appearance of famed Israeli numismatist, Dr. Ya'akov Meshorer. "Authenticating History and the Bible Through Coins" was the theme of the recent presentation. Club member Phil Newman was the featured speaker at an earlier meeting when he traced the development of Israel's currency from its Palestine Note beginnings to present issues.

DR. YA'AKOV MESHORER SPEAKS BEFORE NEW YORK ISRAEL CLUB

Numismatic curator at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, Dr. Yaakov Meshorer, spoke at a recent meeting of the Israel Numismatic Society of New York. His subject was "Coins in Circulation in the Holy Land During the Persian Period."

His book, "Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period," has become a standard reference to all who are interested in ancient Jewish coins. He is one of the foremost scholars and authorities in the field of ancient numismatics.



ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
From l. to r.: Morris Bram at Installation Ceremonies of newly organized INS of Orange County, California; with M. C. Gould, Master of Ceremonies, and President of INSOC, Bob Kommel (photo by Gordon Z. Greene).

CENTRAL JERSEY HEARS SEVERAL SPEAKERS

A broad range of lecturers have recently spoken before the INS of Central Jersey. R. P. Nielson, co-editor of the "Israel Numismatic Market Newsletter" came directly from the Great Lakes seminar to address the group on research sources of Israeli numismatics. Among his recommendations was the formation of an Eastern seminar for which plans are currently being assembled.

At a later meeting, George Gilbert, editor of *The Shekel*, delivered a talk-

Cont. on pg. 32



OFFICERS AND ADVISORY BOARD OF NEW INSOC
Officers and members of the Board of Advisors of the fourth California Israel Numismatic Society at the Installation Ceremony this winter. Center: Morris Bram.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Cont.)

York Coin Convention immediately before us. Perhaps this was not the year you could share the adventure of Israel with us; certainly, the New York experience of AINA's great national convention with its wonderful meetings, banquet, the bourse and the auction, the business affairs of AINA, plus the warmth of the fraternity of INS members meeting as a group is something you won't want to miss. The dates: May 1-4.

New York's *Sheraton Hotel* is at the top of Times Square and within two tiny streets of New York's lovely Central Park. Fifth Avenue with its wondrous stores is only two blocks away and the theatre district is so near—four, six and eight short streets, that you will enjoy the Spring walk to the show of your choice.

But the Convention itself will be so rich with activities you may not find much time for shows and shopping. You surely won't want to miss the *Educational Forum* on Friday evening, May 2nd.

Saturday May 3rd will see among other activities the meeting of the Young Numismatists under the chairpersonship of Florence Schook and Agnes Alones.

Saturday evening? That's the nite of the Banquet which is preceded by our always friendly Cocktail Party. Perhaps you can get to Greenwich Village music spots or out for some dancing at the Waldorf *after* the banquet if you are a late-at-nighter. But please don't plan to sleep *too* late! Sunday—all day is AINA DAY. A business meeting—a seminar, maybe even a luncheon. But we'll see to it that by mid-afternoon you can check out and be on your way home in time to thrill the family with stories of your New York adventure that same evening—even if you live on the far West Coast.

And speaking of the West Coast, more of the riches for AINA in 1975 will be the Saturday evening *Cocktail Party and Banquet* for AINA at the *ANA Convention*, August 19-24 in Los Angeles. The chairman for this event is the well-known Dr. Sol Taylor.

So, from Israel, our thoughts are of you, of New York and of Los Angeles. Now you see why this is an *AINA World*. And you thought you were just collecting a few coins and medals!

Shalom.

Your president,
MORRIS BRAM

CENTRAL JERSEY (Cont.)

demonstration on the techniques of close-up photography possible for the amateur photographer / numismatist. He pointed out that close-up slides can reveal details of a coin which are otherwise more difficult to discern. Another speaker, Lou Susskind spoke of the subject of detecting gold coins. His topic was particularly timely in view of the recent legalization of gold-buying.

Named to replace the Florida-bound trading post editor and nominating committee member Wilma Thompson, are Eric Baelen who will assume control of the trading post and Joe Dickler who has been appointed to the nominating committee.

ALEPH BETH (Cont.)

Chinese restaurants in San Francisco and said to the waiter: "*Bring me your favorite dish*". He was served fish cakes and spaghetti.

As a suggestion, why not try to assemble a brilliant uncirculated *type* set, not *date* set of Israel's commercial trade coins. You may decide to expand this by varieties such as *large date*, *small date*, *large frame*, *small frame*, etc. as per Kagin's "*Israel's Money and Medals*". After that, you could acquire the ancient Jewish coins which were the origin of design on Israel's modern commercial coinage. After that . . .



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GET ONE TREE TOKEN FOR EACH TREE